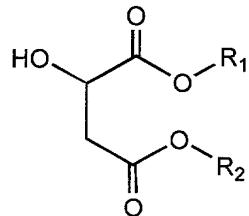


ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

This invention provides water-based compositions, particularly coating, ink,
5 fountain solution, adhesive and agricultural compositions, manifesting reduced
equilibrium and dynamic surface tension by the incorporation of a surface tension
reducing amount of certain malate diester compounds of the structure



10

where R₁ and R₂ are C3 to C6 alkyl groups.

15

ML01844-D.APP